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# DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE



IN CHARGE OF

**EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.**

[To keep this department up-to-date and helpfully interesting, nurses in social work of every description and superintendents of district nursing associations are asked to put the address of its editor—104 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago—on their mailing files for items, clippings, and annual reports.]

**MICHIGAN.**—The Fourteenth Annual Report of the Detroit Visiting Nurse Association is interestingly illustrated with photographs showing the various phases of visiting nurse work, and the report of the superintendent, Mrs. Lystra E. Gretter, is a splendid account of a busy year with much accomplished. Three more nurses have been added to the staff. The new Delray Dispensary, opened through the co-operation of the Associated Charities, the Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis and the Visiting Nurses, has developed into a well-attended polyclinic and is an example of good friendly working together of three philanthropic agencies. The Babies' Milk Fund Association has also opened a station there and the house sheltered a summer day nursery for five sick babies daily during the heated months. Special school inspections have been made by the nurse in the Gross Point district which have already borne good results.

Emma R. Cross (Peterson Hospital, Ann Arbor) has resigned her position as head nurse in the Calumet & Hecla Mining Hospital and has accepted the position of visiting nurse for the State Normal College at Ypsilanti. There are twelve hundred students enrolled in the college and Miss Cross is the first nurse to organize this work. Graduates of other colleges will heartily endorse this good work and will watch its results with interest.

**MASSACHUSETTS.**—Graduate nurses will be glad to learn of a special course for nurses wishing to do visiting, public-health, or industrial nursing, offered by the School for Social Workers and the Instructive District Nursing Association of Boston. The course will cover eight months, from September 24, 1912, to June 6, 1913, and will include field work with the Instructive District Nursing Association and the

Associated Charities of Boston. The school-work will take one-half of the nurses' time. A limited number of scholarships has been arranged by the association and any information concerning the course may be obtained from Mary Beard, Director, Instructive District Nursing Association, 561 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Miss Beard is also a director of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses.

The editor of this department remembers with gratitude, and a true *Oliver Twist* desire for more, the course she enjoyed taking four years ago at the School for Social Workers and can wish no reader of this department a keener, more stimulating pleasure than that said reader should try for herself that extremely interesting and helpful experience. Surely with such courses as Columbia, Cleveland, and Boston are now offering and which Chicago hopes soon to offer, the nurses' opportunities for post-graduate and special study are growing brighter every year.

NEW YORK.—The Jamestown Visiting Nurse Association has published its third annual report, which is an all too brief account of the interest taken by the city at large in a nurse's work. A new way of raising funds, less embarrassing, perhaps, than Tag Day, was tried during the year when the Association had its "Red Letter Day." In a bright scarlet envelope, on which was printed in large black letters, "*Better Than a Government Bond—the Bond of Human Sympathy*," were enclosed a small manila paper envelope, with a place for name and address of donor and the following letter, also printed in black on scarlet paper, and signed by the names of the Board of Directors:

#### AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS

An investment of kindness on your part will make it possible for those of our city who are unable to afford the cost of hospital care, yet needing professional service, to have the aid of the visiting nurse whose mission is to give the patient professional attention, supply sick-room necessities for the patient's comfort, and to give such instruction as will enable the family properly to care for the patient.

There are many chronic sufferers in our city, to whom the visiting nurse has been an untold blessing. Could you but see the legion of grateful mothers and little children, to whom the nurse has been a benediction, you would say, "It pays."

During the last five months over thirteen hundred visits have been made.

To continue this helpful work requires more money. Your cheerful, cordial investment in this bond of sympathy is asked.

Please put your contribution in the enclosed envelope which will be called for to-morrow.

These envelopes were distributed by different committees throughout the entire town and were called for the next day. One thousand three

hundred and twenty-five dollars and fifty-five cents was contributed, thus proving that the day was indeed a banner one for the association. Selma Lincoln (Augustana, Chicago) is the Jamestown visiting nurse.

ILLINOIS.—The First Annual Report of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago greets its friends from between attractive gray covers which make a good background for the blue Della Robbia bambino that guards its cover sheet. For eight years, under the name of "Milk Commission of Chicago," the society successfully carried on the work of preparing and distributing standard modifications of clean milk for babies.

Realizing the need for more intensive work among infants, the society reorganized under its present name, its objects being to instruct mothers in the care and feeding of their infants, to control by weekly conferences the condition and growth of the infants, to teach mothers how to prepare and keep milk modifications, and to furnish individual feedings wherever the home conditions make modifications at home impossible.

The first nurse was appointed December 1, 1910, and there are now ten nurses on the staff. Twenty Mothers' Conferences are held weekly, two at each of the ten stations, and the mothers show their appreciation by their faithful attendance. Parties are sandwiched between instructions, and the capacity of each station is taxed to its utmost to contain the babies and their many relatives. From the stations the nurses make frequent visits into the homes, where milk modification, when necessary, and the hygiene of babyhood, are taught. A significant indication of the value of this work is shown by the small percentage of deaths among the babies under the care of the society: 4.2 per cent. of 2,129 babies. Minnie H. Ahrens is the superintendent.

Olive Ermev (Augustana Hospital) has accepted the position of tuberculosis nurse in Ottawa, Illinois.

OHIO.—Julia Neemeyer, graduate of Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, has returned from Saranac Lake, New York, and has accepted a position with the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati, to act as Social Service nurse for the Cincinnati Tuberculosis Sanitarium.